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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

11

REGULAR MEETING

12

MAY 7, 2009

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1 MR. RUMLEY: We'll call the meeting to  
2 order, please. I appreciate all of y'all coming  
3 tonight. It's good to have a crowd on a night -- a  
4 day like this. It's a pretty day. We've had a lot  
5 of rain. Hopefully, it will let up for a little  
6 while. At this time, I would like to ask Robert to  
7 lead us in prayer and also after that, we'll do the  
8 Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

9 (Thereupon, the Pledge of  
10 Allegiance and invocation were  
given.)

11 MR. RUMLEY: This is the regular  
12 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission  
13 which takes place at the same time on the first  
14 Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this  
15 meeting was given to the legal organ, the Dade  
16 County Sentinel, and also posted in the hallway. At  
17 this time I need a roll call. Mr. Lowery?

18 MR. LOWERY: Here.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

20 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

22 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

24 MR. GOFF: Here.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley, I'm here. We

1 do have a forum. At this time I need to call a vote  
2 for the approval of the consent agenda, but we do  
3 have -- Peter?

4 MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. I would like to  
5 amend the agenda to add discussion regarding a  
6 resolution to participate in the Regional  
7 Telecommunication Council.

8 MR. LOWERY: I'll second that.

9 MR. RUMLEY: I think we all was  
10 involved in the discussion here at the work session.  
11 Is there any questions pertaining to this? We do  
12 have a motion. Do I have a second?

13 MR. GOFF: I'll second.

14 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call the roll.

15 Mr. Lowery?

16 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

18 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

20 MR. GOFF: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

22 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes.

24 Okay. Now, the consent agenda, I'll  
25 have Don go over it and actually go over the

1 complete agenda and after that, if you've got any  
2 questions, feel free to ask them to Don. I'll call  
3 a vote for approval or disapproval. Thank you, Don,  
4 if you would, I appreciate it.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: The approval of the  
6 previous meeting minutes, the approval of the  
7 S.P.L.O.S.T equipment for West Brow Fire Department.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Can everybody hear him?

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. The West Brow  
10 Fire Department to not exceed \$3,000 for the  
11 purchase of two laptop computers plus accessories  
12 and software; the Buy America Resolution supporting  
13 that resolution that Mr. Wes Sandifer produced this  
14 evening; the environmental health fees as produced  
15 by the Board of Health provided by Commissioner  
16 Cervelli and the resolution -- well, let's see, I  
17 think that's it. What does the chair wish to do  
18 with regard -- the attorney and I were -- on the  
19 sample resolution supporting the DOT permit and your  
20 application.

21 MR. RUMLEY: We need to let -- that's  
22 something we need to let Robin draft and then we  
23 can -- actually the next meeting, we can go and  
24 actually review it and actually if we want to  
25 approve it.

1 MR. TOWNSEND: That concludes the  
2 consent agenda.

3 MR. LOWERY: Did you have the  
4 resolution to Buy America?

5 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes.

6 MR. LOWERY: I was making sure.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions for  
8 Mr. Townsend? I entertain a motion pertaining to  
9 the consent agenda.

10 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion to  
11 accept the consent agenda as read.

12 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I  
13 have a second?

14 MR. LOWERY: Second.

15 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call a vote. Mr.  
16 Cervelli?

17 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

19 MR. GOFF: Yes.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

21 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

23 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes. All  
25 right. We'll move right on down here. I've got a

1 couple of special people here tonight. Actually,  
2 I've got three special people. I've got a good  
3 friend of mine in the back back there, Joey Atchley.  
4 I know a lot of you have seen Joey around. And, of  
5 course, Joe is a friend, too, but Joey is special to  
6 me, has been for many years. We appreciate him  
7 coming tonight. I'm going to have him a seat right  
8 up front when he comes back the next meeting.

9 But I would like to ask Mike Wheeler to  
10 come up front. These people right here, Mike to  
11 start with is our oldest employee in Dade County,  
12 not oldest by age, but he's been here longer than  
13 anybody. And Rudolph Thompson here, he is one of  
14 our bailiffs that put 25 years plus of his life in  
15 the county here as a bailiff and tonight we just  
16 wanted to honor these people. It's just a small  
17 plaque to show our appreciation to them and  
18 sometimes it's a lot -- a lot of times it's good to  
19 have a pat on the back. It means more to you than  
20 \$100 check really. We really appreciate y'all and  
21 your service more than you know. And, Mike, we  
22 appreciate you and hope you're here a long time  
23 more, here many years after this. We appreciate  
24 you. I appreciate Mike's mother for bringing him  
25 tonight. She's a special person too, to all of us.

1 All right. Let's move down to our  
2 district commissioner committee reports. They know  
3 which committee they serve on, sort of a one-man  
4 committee. We have the parks and we have the  
5 building. We have Peter, he's on our budgeting  
6 committee.

7 MR. PITTMAN: I've got trash.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Scottie is the trash man.  
9 He's our land fill person over at the Transfer  
10 Station. We'll start with Lamar, if you want to.

11 MR. LOWERY: No. That will be fine.  
12 We've got started on our restrooms and we've got  
13 started on our new court facility and it's rained  
14 ever since, but that's a good thing. It's better  
15 than going into the summer in a drought condition.  
16 So we'll say we're blessed with the rain and it will  
17 dry soon and we'll get started with those.

18 The other thing I have is the  
19 prescription drug discount cards are in. They're on  
20 that back table back there, so everybody that would  
21 like to have one. If you have insurance, it's not  
22 going to do you any good, but if you don't have  
23 insurance or if you're underinsured, that's what  
24 it's for. That's what it's supposed to help. So  
25 they're back there. It's good for the whole family.

1 You only have to have one card per family. If you  
2 want two, that will be fine, have one for your  
3 billfold, make it easier to take with you to the  
4 store or whatever. How good this will do or not, we  
5 don't know right now, but in six months we should  
6 know. We'll get a report back from NACO telling us  
7 how many people in Dade County have used it and what  
8 the savings is for us. So be sure and look at it or  
9 if you know of someone that might need this drug  
10 discount card, we have them in the commission  
11 office. We have them at the senior's building, at  
12 the Primary Health Care. Just call the Commission  
13 Office, we'll get them one or they can come by here  
14 and get them.

15 MR. RUMLEY: The Health Department  
16 downstairs, at DFACS. I think it's going to be a  
17 good thing. I've talked to a few people that  
18 actually have used them and it -- they were -- the  
19 two I talked to, they had just -- they used it as a  
20 supplement kind of. It saved them about 10 or \$15.  
21 That makes a difference on some of their heart  
22 medicine. I was kind of -- when you first explained  
23 it, I wasn't really sure about it, but after talking  
24 to some people in Whitfield County that have used  
25 it, it's been around for a long time.



1 MR. LOWERY: It's been around. And  
2 if -- you know, if it just helps people a little  
3 bit, people that are out of jobs, especially in the  
4 economy we're in. It don't cost us anything to be a  
5 member. It's a discount card. We pay \$400 a year  
6 to be a member of NACO, but it comes with a lot of  
7 other benefits other than this prescription card.  
8 So let all your neighbors know that might qualify  
9 for this and might need it.

10 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate it. Scottie,  
11 what have you got?

12 MR. PITTMAN: Well, the only thing I've  
13 really got, I talked to Billy Massengale. He said  
14 in the month of April, we brought in 562.6 tons of  
15 garbage. That averages out to about 5,110 of  
16 garbage coming across the scales per hour that we  
17 were open. So I don't -- we talked about it. We  
18 really don't know what the cause of the recent  
19 upswing is unless it's all the storms, a lot of  
20 people getting damage around their house. Unless  
21 that's it. But if that trends continues, it's  
22 really going to put a hurting on our budget. That's  
23 really all I've got. Our trash is up and our  
24 recycle is down. Our budget is really going to be  
25 reflecting.

1 MR. RUMLEY: That's amazing the  
2 difference in the garbage from last year at this  
3 time. It's got to be pertaining to storms. I mean,  
4 it's got to be because there's no other reason, but  
5 Billy and I were going over it the other day and  
6 it's amazing the difference. Robert, what have you  
7 got?

8 MR. GOFF: Well, I was talking about  
9 the last time that I was taking my wife on a cruise  
10 and while we were on a cruise, the county like to  
11 have blowed away, so I missed some excitement, but I  
12 am glad that no one was hurt seriously in all the  
13 weather we had. And as usual, certainly not just  
14 one, but all of our county employees were out during  
15 those times that were getting trees out of the road,  
16 deputies who were having to set up, you know,  
17 roadblocks and all that went on, I want to thank  
18 those that did and took care of people. That's what  
19 it's all about. It's about the people. We can't  
20 help the weather. People are still trying to get  
21 back, get their roofs back on and things. Some of  
22 the cars were damaged, but I do want to take this  
23 time to thank them for doing that. In the recent  
24 rains, some bridges and some things that have been  
25 stopped up and they're having to go back out and get

1 some of the trash out of them that's washed down.

2 And then as far as the parks, I want to  
3 put a plug in, not necessarily for them, but so  
4 everybody will know, if you've never gone to a  
5 T-ball game of four and five year olds, if the park  
6 is -- the four fields is there for our youth and  
7 it's more than that. It's worth it to see one of  
8 them hit the ball and run to third or run to the  
9 outfield or stop and pick up dirt on the way out.  
10 But what I'm saying is you go down again any given  
11 evening, probably right now, and you'll find several  
12 hundred kids on those fields having a great time,  
13 learning a little bit of team work. And if you get  
14 an opportunity or think about it, go on WTVC Channel  
15 9 in Chattanooga, Dave Staley's Dave's Diamond  
16 Darlings. He's been doing it for 15 -- this is his  
17 15<sup>th</sup> year and he opened up the season with some of  
18 our T ball kids here in the county, so you can see a  
19 little clip, little video clip online of our kids  
20 and it may just entice you to want to go down and  
21 watch a whole game. It's about as exciting as  
22 pulling teeth, I guess, but I guarantee you a good  
23 laugh. It's right here at home, so take advantage  
24 of what we have here. Thank you.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli, five

1 minutes.

2 MR. CERVELLI: I may want to -- yeah, I  
3 may take five minutes. I just wanted to add in  
4 addition to the road crew cleaning up all the brush  
5 from the storm, they also take care of beaver dams  
6 and I understand they're doing beaver dam management  
7 this week and took care of a dam down in your area.  
8 I thought that was a big deal. They do a lot of  
9 interesting things, so thank you for doing that,  
10 too.

11 MR. RUMLEY: We didn't kill any beavers  
12 though. We just wiped their home out.

13 MR. CERVELLI: Don't get the animal  
14 people involved.

15 MR. RUMLEY: I see Ann back there.

16 MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. So in the  
17 district four community meetings, we've completed  
18 the center around district four. The last one was  
19 in Head River. As a result -- and I'll document the  
20 results of all of those meetings shortly when I find  
21 a few minutes. I will get that done. A lot of work  
22 has been done as a result of those meetings. We've  
23 got reflectors down on Sunset, on -- in New Salem  
24 and Plum Nelly for fog. We've done State Line Road  
25 and Yankee Road out in Head River, again, for fog.

1 Not all of State Line is in our county. Some of it  
2 is in Walker County. I've called over to Walker  
3 County and asked them to complete putting reflectors  
4 down on that road so we have a safe route during a  
5 heavy fog out in Head River and they told me they  
6 would put that on their work list. I appreciate  
7 Walker County doing that.

8 We're working on getting a hydrant over  
9 in Piney. We've got some other issues taken care of  
10 regarding roads. I won't go into all of this, but  
11 we have had some good results come out of these  
12 meetings. Some have to do with crime issues that  
13 the sheriff will take care of and we had great  
14 attendance and we'll do it again in the fall on a  
15 different topic and report out how we've done on the  
16 last set of things we've done.

17 Regarding roads, we're planning to meet  
18 with the Road Commissioner, GDOT Commissioner later  
19 this month on the 27<sup>th</sup> to bring Dade County's  
20 issues regarding financing of repairs, whatever has  
21 to do with in terms of the roads here in Dade  
22 County. If you've got something in your area of the  
23 county, talk to your Commissioner and we'll get on  
24 that list. We'll provide a list. Ted will put that  
25 final list together, what we're going to discuss

1 with the GDOT Commissioner about roads in this  
2 county. So if there's something that's pressing  
3 right now, let's get it on the agenda. If it's a  
4 county road, we'll deal with it. If it's a state  
5 road, we'll deal it. Let us know.

6 In terms of -- we've got a sewer  
7 problem up in the Flintstone Community near Covenant  
8 College. It's been a serious problem for many  
9 years. We're getting very close to getting that  
10 problem solved. I feel confident it can be done  
11 with the help of Covenant College, Dade Water and  
12 Sewer and the community of Lookout Mountain,  
13 Georgia, which is where the sewer goes to right now.  
14 Everybody is partnering trying to solve that problem  
15 up there for those 32 homes in the Flintstone  
16 Community and I feel pretty confident -- I hope I'm  
17 not wrong, but we will get that solved this year, I  
18 hope. So I look forward to that.

19 The other thing that we've been working  
20 on and haven't heard anything about it, if you live  
21 over in Canyon Estates and the flooding that takes  
22 place of Cloudland Canyon, we've talked to DNR  
23 again. I've asked Ted to do that since he's been  
24 the lead person. We don't have a satisfactory  
25 answer yet from DNR about how they're going to

1 handle that, but we have not forgotten it. Ted is  
2 on top of it and he can probably talk a little bit  
3 more about it if he chooses to. We need to try and  
4 get that flooding at least ameliorated. We'll never  
5 be able to solve the problem, but when there's heavy  
6 rain, maybe we can get that better off.

7 The last thing I want to talk about is  
8 finances and this is probably the most important in  
9 terms of all the issues. All our departments are  
10 doing well in terms of managing their expenses. We  
11 may have one department that needs a little help,  
12 but all across the board, everybody is doing very  
13 well staying on budget. That is not the problem.  
14 It's not our expense stream, but our revenue stream  
15 is the problem. L.O.S.T. revenue, which is a Local  
16 Option Sales Tax, is really very critical to funding  
17 how we operate in this county. It's \$48,000 lower  
18 than we expected in our budget in April. So we  
19 budgeted for a number that was \$48,000 more than we  
20 received.

21 Year-to-date our sales tax revenue for  
22 Local Option Sales Tax was down \$104,000. That's in  
23 the first four months of the year. That's  
24 16 percent less than we expected in terms of that  
25 revenue. That also goes for S.P.L.O.S.T and so it's



1 the same for S.P.L.O.S.T, but we use L.O.S.T. to  
2 actually manage the general fund of this county.  
3 Year-over-year from last year, April is 22 percent  
4 less than it was in the year 2008. And I talked to  
5 the folks at the Department of Revenue, that's not  
6 unusual. That's the same across the state of  
7 Georgia. We're not out of line with what other  
8 people have seen happening in the month of April.  
9 Everybody has seen a dramatic drop in sales tax  
10 revenue in April, so it's not like we're unique or  
11 something strange is happening in Dade County.  
12 We're actually a little bit better, but that  
13 22 percent drop is real.

14 So given that revenue is our issue, if  
15 you'll look at any of our budget reports, it shows  
16 that our revenue is at 22 percent and given we're at  
17 33 percent into the year, we're low compared to  
18 that. That's not the really difficult number. If  
19 you do a little bit more studying of that and take  
20 out property tax revenue, which always looks great.  
21 It's always higher. We're down about seven and a  
22 half percent from where we should be in revenue.  
23 That doesn't sound like a big number, but that's  
24 \$125,000.

25 MR. RUMLEY: That's total revenue.



1 MR. CERVELLI: Total revenue. We're  
2 down \$125,000 in the first four months of this year.  
3 I think that -- and I talked with some of the other  
4 Commissioners already. There's probably going to  
5 need to be some action taken by this Commission to  
6 deal with that. The first thing we're going to need  
7 to do is scrutinize every revenue item to make sure  
8 that we're not assuming we should have that revenue  
9 now, maybe it will come in later in the year. We  
10 need to adjust for that, but it's -- we're at a  
11 point now that I think we need to deal with it. I  
12 don't know what that means, but we have a \$125,000  
13 problem and maybe by next month we'll have a better  
14 handle on what we need to do, but I think action is  
15 called for.

16 That's my report and the only other  
17 thing I want to say is remember May 16<sup>th</sup> West Brow  
18 Firefighter's Appreciation Day. It's going to be at  
19 the community center in West Brow from 11:00 to  
20 3:00. Come out and get free hamburgers and have a  
21 good time.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Peter. Good  
23 report. What Peter kind of left off there, I guess  
24 he kind of let it in there, but what we've got to do  
25 is we've got to tighten our belts, you know. That

1 first quarter went by here and we knew that we were  
2 going to have a shortfall. I mean, there's no  
3 doubt. I mean, as we keep saying, times are not  
4 like they were last year and this next month between  
5 now and the next meeting, we've got some decisions  
6 to make. I mean, we may -- we may have to ask some  
7 of the departments -- going back to Robin, we can't  
8 force our elected officers to do this, but we can  
9 sure recommend to them to possibly do some  
10 furloughing on some of their employees. There's a  
11 lot of ways that we can cut and try to control this.  
12 Hopefully, we won't have to lay off any more people.  
13 It may come to that. These are not good times.  
14 It's not just the state of Georgia. It's all over  
15 the United States.

16 So that -- to summarize Peter's report  
17 there, that's what we're looking at in the next  
18 month or so. We're going into our second quarter  
19 and it's really going to tell the tale there. I  
20 mean, especially when you get into July when people  
21 are traveling. Normally that's when expenses are --  
22 I mean, not expenses, but your L.O.S.T. and your  
23 tax -- people are traveling and spending more money.  
24 So just bear with us and we just want you to know  
25 we're doing all we can do and we want to -- I'm sure

1 we may step on some people's toes. Call it that if  
2 you want to, but we've got a job to do and we're  
3 going to do it.

4           Anyway, my report. It's been a long  
5 month. We've had some long nights. Billy  
6 Massengale, I don't know if he's still here or not,  
7 but he spent a lot of hours after midnight and I've  
8 been with him on many of the trips, but a lot of  
9 trees. We had the storms. When you have storms,  
10 you have a little more overtime or actually quite a  
11 bit. We have applied to the state emergency  
12 agencies for -- hopefully we'll get some relief on  
13 this because there was a lot more damage than a lot  
14 of people realized. Some ends of the county, they  
15 didn't have any wind hardly at all. I know our end  
16 and on the north end, Lamar, it was bad, you know.  
17 For Dade County, it was kind of a freak storm, but  
18 we've been working on that.

19           I said a while ago, we've spent a lot  
20 of time pursuing our stimulus -- not only stimulus  
21 grants, but any grant that is out there. I've got a  
22 lady that she's working for minimum wage just part  
23 time, but she actually used to work for HUD and  
24 she's worked for the USDA before and she actually  
25 took off some time to have a child and raise. So

1 she's kind of a blessing. She's just going to work  
2 for us a few weeks, maybe a month, but she's really  
3 helping a lot, helping me a lot on preparing these  
4 different grants. She's real up-to-date on it and  
5 she knows a lot of people in the right places and  
6 hopefully it will be a real benefit to us. Like I  
7 said, it was kind of an answer to a prayer because  
8 right here in the next couple of months, it is going  
9 to be real critical whether we get anything or not  
10 because the deadlines are coming up here, you know,  
11 June 1st and June 15th.

12 I appreciate -- I really do appreciate  
13 Billy. I appreciate the road crew. The City crews,  
14 I don't know whether y'all -- some of y'all have  
15 scanners or not, but they've been out there. They  
16 were right there, you know, when the storms hit.  
17 The mayor was out there with them. I know I heard  
18 him on the radio a couple of times. When you see  
19 these people, the fire departments, you know, the  
20 police departments, I mean, we've got -- you need to  
21 pat them on the back. I wish I could give them all  
22 a plaque. I mean, a lot of us sit home and we watch  
23 the news. When our power goes off, you sit inside.  
24 You kind of take it for granted, but we've got some  
25 people in this county that -- some of the deputies

1 beat all I've ever seen. I mean, we've got deputies  
2 out there that carries their work gear in their  
3 trunks. I'm not just talking about men. We've got  
4 some little ladies I couldn't believe it. You know,  
5 you call -- you get a call for a tree down and the  
6 thing may be three foot in diameter and you pull up  
7 and you've got a little deputy three, four-foot tall  
8 out there working just like a man and they don't get  
9 paid any more for it. I mean, that's just -- and  
10 they don't have to do it.

11 In fact, years ago when I was here  
12 before and we had a couple of bad storms and I was  
13 informed that that's not my job. I was out there by  
14 myself and we were cutting some stuff and not  
15 calling any names. I guess it wasn't. They sat in  
16 the car and watched us work. You know, I wasn't  
17 raised that way as the old saying goes. But when  
18 you see these people, just pat them on the back and  
19 tell them you appreciate them. I mean that.

20 But all in all, we do have the revenue  
21 we're coming up short, but all in all, I think  
22 positive on it because I know, like I said, we're  
23 doing the best we can. We're trying to -- our  
24 officers, our elected officials, I feel that -- you  
25 know, we had a little talk with them. I mean,

1 they're doing good. They're staying on their  
2 budget. The sheriff is doing good. We've got two  
3 departments, I think, that are -- it's not a lot of  
4 money, but the thing about it is, we can't let it  
5 get out of hand and we're going to, like I said,  
6 work on this this next month. We're going to have  
7 some heart to heart talks with them and I feel that  
8 they'll work with us. I hope they will.

9 MR. CERVELLI: And just so -- if I  
10 could add in terms of the grants. It's not like  
11 nothing is happening. There's at least \$650,000 in  
12 grant applications that are in process right now for  
13 the county. Not all of it coming to county  
14 government, but it would impact the county itself,  
15 so, you know, it's not like zero. There are folks  
16 working on bringing in over half a million dollars  
17 in grants.

18 MR. RUMLEY: That are pretty positive.  
19 We hope -- we're actually going to have actually a  
20 total of maybe 3 million, maybe \$4 million, a little  
21 more than that really. We did have some damage on  
22 our Depot where the Chamber is located and we've got  
23 a new roof to put on that. We did have insurance on  
24 it that's going to help us some. We've got a grant  
25 that was applied for several years ago. We've got

1       that back in motion and hopefully we can take that.  
2       There's some damage inside and actually around the  
3       corner, so I feel -- we're going to handle it next  
4       week. We've got to fix it because it's bad.

5               But other than that, we're holding our  
6       own and we just want to -- we want you to know we  
7       want all your input that we can have. I try to  
8       stress that every meeting. The door is open back  
9       there and I mean that. My phone, call me if you've  
10      got any questions. We've had a lot of calls in the  
11      past couple of weeks. We've got some revals that  
12      went out on some property. Of course, that's the  
13      tax assessor that sent those out. A lot of times  
14      that's the first stop they make is our office and so  
15      I've got about -- I think I've got 11 laying on the  
16      desk to call back in the morning.

17             Please come talk to the assessors, let  
18      them explain if you've got a problem. There's a lot  
19      of people that's got legitimate problems. I've seen  
20      them. I've witnessed them and that's what the  
21      Assessor's Board is for. That's what the Board of  
22      Appeals is for. You go in there and you're the  
23      people that these people work for. That's what it's  
24      all about. You go in and that's what the process is  
25      for. I seen you in there the other day, Joe, or



1 yesterday. You know, you need to go in and file an  
2 appeal if you don't agreed with it. If that don't  
3 work, you can go to the Superior Court. You can go  
4 all the way up to the Superior Court with it, but  
5 our doors are always open. I can't say that enough  
6 really. But saying that --

7 MR. LOWERY: I noticed the governor  
8 signed the assessment freeze today into law. It was  
9 in today's paper.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Buddy was asking me about  
11 that. I had two people come in right at closing  
12 time and he was wanting to know if it actually  
13 affects '09. The way it was explained to me, it's  
14 actually for '10, 2010. I may be wrong. Buddy,  
15 I'll call you. If you'll give me your number or if  
16 you'll call me in the morning, I'll have an answer  
17 for you. I want to be sure, but what I read, it was  
18 actually for next -- for 2010.

19 MR. CERVELLI: I think that's right.

20 MR. RUMLEY: I'm pretty sure it is.

21 MR. LOWERY: Appeal it then and get it  
22 back.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Oh, that's true. Okay.  
24 Moving down to line item three, we have the mayor  
25 here tonight. Do you want to come up and talk to



1 us, Mayor. Good to have you tonight.

2 MR. HARRIS: The only thing I've got  
3 tonight is to kind of reiterate what Peter said.  
4 Revenues in the City are down like they are anywhere  
5 else, but you're going to see some work going on  
6 over the next month or so. We're going to -- some  
7 of you may or may not know. If you've been in the  
8 Industrial Park, we had to reroute a sewer line down  
9 there to open up the last -- one of the last lots  
10 we've got down there to try and draw in, you know,  
11 another business or two and they put it down the  
12 middle of the road and we tore that road up last  
13 fall. It's now sat all winter, which is what we  
14 wanted to do, get these trucks driving over it and  
15 get the right compaction on it, but we're going to  
16 try and get that thing paved in the next 30 to 45  
17 days.

18 You'll see some more work going on in  
19 the city. Don't confuse revenues coming into the  
20 City in one sense and our budget with S.P.L.O.S.T.  
21 Some of the stuff you'll see will be done with  
22 S.P.L.O.S.T money. So like I said, you know, look  
23 for things to be started, things to be happening  
24 there at the City.

25 I do want to take a second and talk

1 again about what some of y'all have done spoke about  
2 tonight. Our -- I guess May seems to be the month  
3 of, you know, honoring and being thankful. This  
4 month or this past Tuesday we honored all of our law  
5 enforcement officers and agencies and that includes  
6 all of them, even the Tennessee -- excuse me, not  
7 Tennessee, Georgia Wildlife officers and stuff like  
8 that. A lot of these people are out there, you  
9 know, taking care of and overseeing and just  
10 basically keeping the law because without the law  
11 being kept, you've got chaos and we need to always  
12 for our law enforcement officers to be shown the  
13 appreciation that deserve because they work a lot of  
14 long thankless hours I guess is the way to say it.

15 Also, this -- not this weekend, a week  
16 from now, Memorial weekend, all of our veterans,  
17 Memorial Day. We're going to have a proclamation to  
18 be signed about next week being national -- the  
19 week, you know, for Memorial Day here in the county,  
20 same thing. Your officers, your vets, anybody like  
21 that and also your volunteers that's worked and  
22 really worked hard to clean up brush. I know  
23 Preston has worked and worked diligently hauling  
24 load after load and I know the county has, too.  
25 Alex was telling about how much we had kept up with

1 and stuff like that, loads of brush and debris all  
2 over the county and city. It's been gathered up.  
3 So any of these volunteers, veterans, officers,  
4 anybody like that, if you've got a minute, take the  
5 time and shake their hand and thank them. That's  
6 all I have. I appreciate you guys for what you do  
7 because I know like Ted and everybody else that's  
8 out here, there's a lot of nights and early mornings  
9 that gets spent that's nothing extra for it. It's  
10 for the community. It's all about each other. I  
11 think Robert said that. I appreciate y'all.

12 MR. RUMLEY: I want to say one thing  
13 about the -- that Peter has talked about so much on  
14 the Cloudland Canyon runoff over there in the Canyon  
15 Park Estates, we have applied through the park,  
16 Georgia Park Department -- it would take about an  
17 hour to fix the problem, hour and a half, but we  
18 found out that's sacred ground over there. You're  
19 not allowed to put a piece of equipment in it. Even  
20 though we've got four homes there that's really --  
21 could be involved in this runoff, the stream is  
22 actually changed its path there and it's not going  
23 through the route where the tiles are at.

24 To make a long story short, we  
25 contacted the park and they said, no, we had to go

1 through the Corps of Engineers. Well, the Corps of  
2 Engineers signed off on it, but it's left into the  
3 Department of Natural Resource, EPD, Department of  
4 Natural Resource and she's supposed to submit a --  
5 hopefully, a variance where we can do this next week  
6 hopefully before we have any more serious flooding.

7 They kind of insinuated they just  
8 thought that -- you know, it's kind of like out in  
9 Yellowstone, when it caught on fire, they just let  
10 it burn until it goes out. In conversation I had  
11 with them, they kind of insinuated that the park  
12 should operate that way. You know, I didn't agree  
13 with that. I don't see how they could even say that  
14 because when you've got people's homes, you know,  
15 that's never been touched with water and you've got  
16 streams diverted right toward them. You know, that  
17 kind of makes you -- anyway, hopefully we can get on  
18 that next week and take care of that problem before  
19 we have a major problem over there.

20 Saying that, let's move down to four,  
21 which is our clerk, Don Townsend, with our monthly  
22 finance report.

23 MR. TOWNSEND: All right. Well, we  
24 have the big board here again, so we're still  
25 exploring and learning, so be patient with me. The

1 general fund has a balance of \$967,368; federal  
2 asset fund, which is derived from U.S. Treasury,  
3 1,307; special sheriff's fund, 12,511; drug abuse  
4 education fund, 22,994; supplemental juvenile  
5 service funds, 14,122; victim assistance fund,  
6 2,281; jail fund, 31,826; federal asset fund, 2,253,  
7 payroll account 91,210. Those are account balances  
8 as of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

9           2004 S.P.L.O.S.T funds available in  
10 principal and interest and also capital bonds, you  
11 see \$1,874,958 are available in the P&I fund and in  
12 capital bond fund, that's 659,831. In the 2009  
13 S.P.L.O.S.T funds, which is the new S.P.L.O.S.T, we  
14 have it looks like a small balance there for  
15 proceeds account \$157, but we made our first  
16 interest payment that was due on May 1st. We paid  
17 that in April, so that kind of wiped out the  
18 interest there. But anyway, we'll be accumulating  
19 more money in the proceeds account starting  
20 September of this year is when we'll start  
21 collecting on the new 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T that was  
22 passed last year.

23           Under the construction fund, we have  
24 \$2,298,940 in the account, vested \$583,048 for total  
25 available funds S.P.L.O.S.T of \$2,882,146.

1           The fire departments currently -- we  
2     have no lease payments made as of yet, but the  
3     S.P.L.O.S.T bonds that have been used for Davis, New  
4     Home, North Dade and West Brow and you can see those  
5     respective moneys spent in this column right here.

6           Next is the general fund revenues as  
7     Commissioner Cervelli spoke about earlier. This is  
8     page four in your packet there for the  
9     Commissioners. You'll see from the top down  
10    elections all the way down through soil  
11    conservation. We have collected a total year to --  
12    I'm sorry, actual for the month \$451,559.23. Budget  
13    wise, 499,434.94 is what we budgeted. So we are  
14    short 47,875.

15           One thing that's of interest is if  
16    you'll look for the Commissioners, there's a  
17    variance report in there and on that variance  
18    report, as Commissioner Cervelli noted, we collected  
19    for the month of April for Local Option Sales tax  
20    114,271. We had anticipated and budgeted 162,500,  
21    so that was short \$48,228. So if that had come in,  
22    it would have been, you know, off by \$1,000 there.  
23    So Local Option Sales Tax and Special Local Option  
24    Sales Tax is the primary problem.

25           Year-to-date revenue is 3,333,678,



1 which was budgeted 3,460,195, which again is off  
2 126,000. I believe Commissioner Cervelli noted 125.  
3 So that's approximately 39.03 percent for the year.

4 Looking at expenses, you'll see  
5 elections all the way down through economic  
6 development. I'll leave that up just a little while  
7 if you want to continue to look at it. But going at  
8 the bottom, you see 562,685 is our current for the  
9 month of April what was spent. Budget wise was  
10 633,429, so we are in the black for the month  
11 70,743. Year-to-date actual spent or actual  
12 expenditures were 2,523,259, which we budgeted  
13 2,750,771, so, you know, we have not out-spent  
14 ourselves, which is good since we're not collecting  
15 revenues.

16 Revenues less expenses for April is  
17 down 111,126 and revenues less expenses year-to-date  
18 was 810,419. This right here is budget attained.  
19 That's with four months of the year gone, we should  
20 be at 33.33 percent. So anytime you see numbers  
21 under or over -- sometimes like the fire  
22 departments, they only get paid quarterly money, so  
23 it might appear like they've overspent, but really  
24 that's just an equation problem more than anything  
25 because they have not overspent for the year.

1 S.P.L.O.S.T, this is the last page in  
2 that section. Let's see, estimated moneys received,  
3 2.9 million. Right here you see approximately 1.6  
4 million remaining for the old S.P.L.O.S.T, for the  
5 courthouse renovation or the courthouse, sorry, not  
6 renovation, but the new building, which is listed as  
7 Justice Building here.

8 Then the Local Option Sales Tax  
9 revenue. You see April is 114,000. This was 2009.  
10 Go back to 2008, it was 147. If you look back at  
11 April 2007, it was 151. Looking back at 2006,  
12 April, it was 165. So you see a disturbing trend.  
13 It's constantly going down and it's not just a  
14 monthly variance. It's a year-to-date trend. Each  
15 year it's consistently gone down. That's the Local  
16 Option.

17 And then the Special Local Option is  
18 the same scenario, April 2009, 142,857 is what was  
19 collected and when we talk about April's  
20 collections, that is actually moneys that was -- for  
21 people, the citizens, visitors, whoever spent the  
22 money back in February and the Department of Revenue  
23 collects at the end of the month and then in March  
24 they decide who has spent how much where and then  
25 they finally in April decide to send it to Dade



1 County. So they get to keep for 60 and draw  
2 interest instead of letting us have it. I always  
3 like to throw that in.

4 April 2009 though, you see 142,  
5 April 2008 was 185. Again, April 2007, 189, so the  
6 trend continues down. The reports also for the  
7 Commissioners, you see there includes the project  
8 variance report and also budget versus actual, so I  
9 believe that really concludes the financial report.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions? I think  
11 all of you have reviewed and looked over it. This  
12 is something we need to keep close to our heart  
13 every day. I know I do. That's the first thing on  
14 my desk every morning. It's just where the numbers  
15 are. So have you got any questions, Peter?

16 MR. CERVELLI: No. I make a motion we  
17 accept the financial report.

18 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I  
19 hear a second?

20 MR. GOFF: I second.

21 MR. RUMLEY: We have a second. I'll  
22 call the roll. Mr. Lowery?

23 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

25 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

2 MR. GOFF: Yes.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

4 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

5 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.

6 MR. TOWNSEND: I did forget one thing

7 and this doesn't need to be voted on, but we have  
8 had auditors here for approximately, what, six weeks  
9 or so. They are early this year. They're early  
10 because with the bonded money, we had to report that  
11 through Moody's and Standard and Porter's Index, so  
12 because of the reporting requirements, they actually  
13 need those reports like by the of this month. So we  
14 had to move our audit up and the auditors did comply  
15 with that upon our request. So far so good.  
16 They're about, I would say, 95, 97 percent complete.  
17 They actually left this last Monday. We have a  
18 follow-up meeting tomorrow and then we should have a  
19 report hopefully by the June meeting, which is about  
20 a month early, so -- but no significant findings as  
21 of yet, which is a good thing.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you. Okay.

23 Robin, have you got any legal matters?

24 MR. ROGERS: No, no new legal matters.

25 MR. RUMLEY: I don't think we have any

1 unfinished business.

2 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, on the new  
3 business, I know we voted to amend the agenda to  
4 include the Telecommunication Resolution, but I  
5 don't think it was part of the consent agenda, so we  
6 might need to vote to approve the Telecommunication  
7 Resolution under new business.

8 MR. RUMLEY: You're the man we pay the  
9 big bucks to. You're a lawyer. We listen to you.  
10 That's fine.

11 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion that we  
12 participate and accept the resolution to participate  
13 in the Regional Telecommunication Council.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I have a motion.  
15 Do I hear a second?

16 MR. LOWERY: I'll second. Peter may  
17 want to explain a little more about that real quick.

18 MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. In case you  
19 weren't here earlier, Chattooga, Floyd, Polk and  
20 Walker Counties initiated a study regarding  
21 telecommunications in their counties and how to  
22 become competitive as possible to attract industry  
23 to this part of Georgia. Georgia Tech did the  
24 study, made several recommendations on how to  
25 proceed, one of which was to put together a regional

1 telecommunication council to help implement the  
2 recommendations out of that study. They've opened  
3 it up to more than just the four original counties.  
4 The study was paid with One Georgia money. Our  
5 participation of this resolution to participate is  
6 not committing us to any kind of money. What it  
7 does commit us to is to be present and participate  
8 in these councils to have a governmental member and  
9 one person from the Chamber, local Chamber to also  
10 participate and I've talked with the president of  
11 the Chamber, Lionel Austin, and he's agreed to  
12 participate as well.

13           The point here is -- just take one of  
14 the simple recommendations that came out of it.  
15 It's called Smart Site. It says if you're going to  
16 have an industrial site in your county, there are  
17 certain things you should do to make it as  
18 competitive as possible from a telecommunications  
19 point of view. The goal here is to learn what we  
20 should do. It's not just for industry. One of the  
21 recommendations is to deal with the dead spots in  
22 the county as far as cell phones. That affects a  
23 lot of people in our county and so it's not just for  
24 industry. It's for people and residents in terms of  
25 cost and quality and so this is just an opportunity

1 for us to learn what we can do to make our county  
2 the best possible for our community in terms of  
3 industry for telecommunications and information  
4 technology and so that's what the resolution is.  
5 It's our commitment to participate and see if  
6 there's something that's reasonable for us to do.  
7 It really doesn't cost us anything more than time  
8 right now. As I said, I'll leave a copy of the  
9 study here with Don. If anybody has an interest,  
10 there's 50 pages of recommendations.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you. I do  
12 have a second. I have a motion and a second. I'll  
13 call the vote. Mr. Cervelli?

14 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

16 MR. GOFF: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

18 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

20 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

22 Okay. Move down to number eight, our  
23 citizens participation. If anyone wants to come up  
24 and talk with us, we'll give you five minutes. Come  
25 up to the mic and state your name. Number one.

1 MR. GALLOWAY: I'm Galloway. Who made  
2 the coffee? It was so stout. Tone it down.

3 MR. RUMLEY: We do have -- before you  
4 leave, eat what's left back there. Come on up, Bill  
5 Marshall.

6 MR. MARSHALL: This is our 12<sup>th</sup> year  
7 of Antique Alley and it's had a lot of good years  
8 and it's had a few low years, particularly last year  
9 when fuel was so high. Most everybody involved  
10 really feels like it's going to be a better year for  
11 about three reasons. One, gasoline right now is  
12 half the price it was last year at this time and  
13 also there's a lot more people that want to get rid  
14 of their stuff because they need the money more than  
15 they do their stuff, if we can call it that,  
16 antiques, whatever it is. And then there will be a  
17 lot more people out looking for better deals than  
18 retail, so I think it's going to be a pretty good  
19 year if the weather doesn't cover us up with rain or  
20 something.

21 The first year we actually counted them  
22 around the courthouse and multiplied it by two  
23 people per car and the best we could come up with in  
24 the three days then, we had 30,000 people that first  
25 year. Brock's ran out of food. It was pretty good.

1 Of course, that was a 250 mile one. Now we're on  
2 502 from Meridian, Mississippi to Bristol, Virginia.  
3 It's a nice ride down the back roads of the south  
4 land. U.S. 11 is an antique itself. But strangely  
5 this happens on the same week as National Tourism  
6 Week. So we're asking all the people that are  
7 selling their stuff and traveling through to treat  
8 them like tourists and that means treat them  
9 respectfully because they're here spending money and  
10 hopefully they'll spend more money than just what  
11 they buy from the vendors out.

12 One thing we would like to do is have a  
13 few more things along downtown because if you can  
14 slow people down in your downtown area, they'll see  
15 more and are apt to come back and spend more or  
16 spend more while they're here. I'm working with the  
17 antique cars at the parking lot here for Saturday  
18 and they usually have music, so I'm asking them to  
19 put on a street dance because we've had those on  
20 some of the other routes before. People coming  
21 through that have been working and buying all day,  
22 they like to stop and join in the fun, too, you  
23 know. So if we've got some fun things going on like  
24 that, it just makes them feel better about being  
25 here.



1 But we're on line. We started out the  
2 first year as being web site driven. It's a good  
3 way to do it. It's very time consuming particularly  
4 for me to get the information and get it on the web  
5 site, but it's still worthwhile. If you want to get  
6 on it, it's US11antiquealley.com. It brings up the  
7 home page and on the right side it tells you a  
8 little bit about the history and on the left side,  
9 you can punch on a map and then punch on the map and  
10 it will bring it up to an eight and a half by eleven  
11 and it will show you the whole 502 miles with five  
12 states and 24 counties and 77 little towns and  
13 they're all on there.

14 And then also from that, you can click  
15 on whatever county or city you want to look at on  
16 the left side and it will come up on the right side.  
17 And of course, Dade County starts in the north and  
18 gets Wildwood first and then New England, right down  
19 the road. It will tell you most of the things going  
20 on. There are some things that people don't tell  
21 us. We do charge a small fee to get us enough money  
22 to pay for the web site and hopefully someday we'll  
23 get enough to do a little more advertising because  
24 that would help, too. But we do have a lot of  
25 people up and down the highway. We put out some



1 press releases and a lot of people will carry those  
2 through. I think it's going to be a good time.

3 We've asked everybody to clean up in  
4 their area if they can, if they're on U.S. 11, get  
5 it cleaned up and looking good before they get here  
6 because these are tourists coming through and we  
7 ought to make it look good, you know. Anybody got  
8 any questions? Since you don't have any questions,  
9 I would like to tell you that Monday on the 11th,  
10 we're going to announce our Business Expo for this  
11 year. It's going to be on June 18<sup>th</sup> and back at  
12 the American Legion. We're going to put it on a web  
13 site this year so people can order ahead and tell  
14 them more about what we've done with it. It's a  
15 good time for everybody to come down and get some  
16 free meals and win some free door prizes, but you  
17 also learn a lot of things going on in the county  
18 that you may not know otherwise.

19 Strangely, the first year we had Moore  
20 Funeral Home. A lot of people think what are they  
21 doing down there. Well, they got to talk about  
22 their plans for one, but the biggest thing that  
23 happened to him, a guy right down from him was a guy  
24 that does payroll and that helped him a lot because  
25 he got that guy to do his payroll now and it costs

1 him less money and he don't have to do it. So it's  
2 just networking between people. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you for that advice.  
5 I appreciate it. Anyone else want to come up?

6 MS. PARRISH: I hadn't planned on doing  
7 this, but this coming Saturday is National Letter  
8 Carrier Day. If everyone here would let friends,  
9 neighbors, family, anybody, if you put one can of  
10 food in your mailbox, your postal carrier will pick  
11 it up and take it to the local -- it stays local,  
12 the local food banks. I did speak with Penny at the  
13 Trenton Post Office and she said that if you put a  
14 bag of groceries at the base of your mailbox, they  
15 will pick up that bag of groceries. And that will  
16 stay local and I'm going to try to get West Brow  
17 because our mail goes to Lookout Mountain,  
18 Tennessee.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Oh, does it? I thought it  
20 went to Rising Fawn.

21 MS. PARRISH: I'm going to try to get  
22 in touch with them out there and see if maybe we  
23 could get that food routed to Dade County. So let  
24 your friends, family, neighbors know about that.

25 MR. RUMLEY: That's good. That's the

1 first I've heard about that.

2 MS. PARRISH: You can go to USPS.com  
3 and it's on the web site.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Joe, come on.

5 MR. ATCHLEY: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Commissioner. My name is Joe Atchley. I'm not  
7 here from the American Legion, but I would like to  
8 tell y'all a little bit about what's going in the  
9 next few weeks. You'll notice if you have time. If  
10 you'll notice, you'll be going up and down the road,  
11 the City of Trenton is going to be working with the  
12 American Legion. They're going to be putting flags  
13 up and down the side of the road. It will be all  
14 branches of service, the City and American Legion  
15 and Soldiers of God. It's a new organization we  
16 have in the community and they're doing a lot of  
17 good work, things like that.

18 There will be some crosses. The school  
19 children are building some crosses. You'll be  
20 noticing those up and down the road. It will have  
21 names of people from Dade County that's given their  
22 life in the line of duty and those people are going  
23 to be recognized, too. So if you see these things,  
24 I'm explaining to you what they represent. Those  
25 crosses will be for the people. There will be some

1 flags around the monument over here and I think on  
2 the 25<sup>th</sup> we're also going to have a memorial  
3 service over there, so we'll have the regular wreath  
4 laying. So if any of y'all want to come and  
5 participate in that, we'd be glad to have you. So  
6 thank you very much.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you for that  
8 information.

9 MR. CERVELLI: They put those crosses  
10 out in Lafayette and it always slows you down when  
11 you drive by and see those. That's good to hear.

12 MR. ATCHLEY: Ringgold is the one that  
13 started that. If you've never been through Ringgold  
14 on Veteran's Day or Memorial Day, you need to go  
15 because that town is literally, it's covered up with  
16 flags and crosses.

17 MR. RUMLEY: They really do.

18 MR. ATCHLEY: It's all done through the  
19 American Legion and the Veterans Associations. It's  
20 just a reminder.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Anyone else? I appreciate  
22 all of you coming tonight. I really do and I want  
23 you to come back and maybe we can fill the house  
24 next time. Eat the rest of the food. I hope  
25 there's some left back there. Tonight I want to do

1 this official. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

2 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we  
3 adjourn.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

5 MR. PITTMAN: I second.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Mr. Cervelli?

7 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

9 MR. GOFF: Yes.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

11 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

12 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

13 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes.

15 Thank you so much.  
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## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE     )  
                                      )  
COUNTY OF HAMILTON    )

I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and  
Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the  
State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that  
I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had  
in the above-styled cause on the 7th day of  
May, 2009;

That the said proceedings were  
reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;  
and that the foregoing is a transcript of said  
proceedings.

This the 29th day of May, 2009.

Erin M. Flatt  
Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public  
in and for the State of  
Tennessee at Large  
My commission expires  
November 7, 2010.

